

# The Catlins Area School Newsletter – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## From the Principal:

### Be Motivated, Be You!

Clutha District Council is holding an event on **Friday 6th April** for young people in the Clutha District. It is called 'Be motivated, be you!' This is an event for all of our Year 9-13 students to attend from 9.30am to 3pm. This means we have a **change of plan for the 6th of April**, which was previously a Teacher Only Day. **Students in Years 1-8** will stay at home on April 6th as planned; this will allow our teachers to participate in the planned Positive Behaviour for Learning training. **Our Year 9-13 students** will be asked to attend school on that day in full uniform. Buses will be provided to take them to South Otago Town and Country Club in Balclutha for the event. Each Year 9-13 student has already selected their workshops for the day. There will be staff supervision for the entire day at the Country Club.

"Be Motivated Be You!" has been put together by local youth for in response to the needs of youth identified in a district-wide survey of young people. This survey was undertaken in our 5 secondary schools, tertiary institutions and youth in work and unemployed. The "Be Motivated, Be You!" event will be delivered as part of our Youth Council's 2018 National Youth Week project as it aligns with the National theme of "Be Who You Want To Be".

## Our NetNZ Students

In 2018, a number of our senior students are accessing courses in an online format through NetNZ. By harnessing technology and the internet schools are able to share teachers and learning opportunities across a community. This enables the provision of another layer of curriculum on top of what we already offer and provides enormous flexibility and opportunity for our students. This means students are able to access rich learning opportunities, anywhere, anytime, and provides a natural context for developing digital literacy skills. The courses are delivered using a mix of online technologies, largely based around the google apps suite of tools, and include a weekly video conference session using google+ hangouts. You can learn more at [netnz.org](http://netnz.org). Here is some information about the courses chosen by our NetNZ learners:

### Izaiah McLean and Brayden Michie - Digital Technologies (NCEA Level 1)

The aim of this course is to give students skills in collecting, managing and presenting information digitally in a variety of forms. Depending on the interests of the students they may work on programming, web design and animation.



### Alicia Staniford - Philosophy (NCEA Level 3)

Philosophy is the subject that specializes in exploring fundamental questions about the world and our place in it. For example: What is reality? What does it mean for me to 'know' something? What is reasoning? What is a Mind? How should I live, and who should decide? The Philosophical discussion draws on imaginative speculation, scientific evidence, sustained reflection on lived experience, and the different histories, cultural perspectives and texts that shape current thought.



### Hannah Clarke - Music Performance (NCEA Level 3)

This is a course for students who wish to follow a Creative Arts pathway, it is totally individualised for each student. Students have the option of learning: Solo Performance, Group Performance (by agreement), Composition, Music Technology, Instrumentation and Arrangement.



### Darius McLean - Web Design (NCEA Level 3)

Students will investigate and critique what good web design is, then follow a design process to create a technological outcome for an identified need or opportunity. This brief will then be developed into a complex responsive website using HTML, CSS and Javascript where appropriate in conjunction with a relational database storing relevant information such as content for a client's website.



## BEATS-R

Thank you to the students and parents who participated in the Otago University BEATS-R survey. Some of our students will be wearing activity trackers for the next week, these will be returned to school and sent back to the research team at the conclusion of the data collection. As a result of your participation, the school has received \$100 worth of book vouchers which I have passed on to Mrs McPhee to use in the Library.

## Assembly

On Tuesday, **Hannah Clarke** was able to share her experience of her Japanese Tokiwa Exchange with the school. She prepared an excellent presentation to explain her trip and what she had learned. As part of her presentation, Hannah shared with the school a gift from Tokiwa High School (pictured here). Students can see the gift on Mrs Bloxham's desk in the main office.



## Parent Meetings

Thank you to the parents who attended our parent meetings (Y1-6) and Mentoring sessions (Y7-13). It was a well attended evening where teachers had the opportunity to provide information regarding student progress and for students to participate in goal setting.

International ongoing research indicates that purposeful engagement with students and their families is critical to student success. Such engagement involves regular two-way conversations between a student and a designated teacher (academic counselling/coaching/mentoring), and periodic, three-way, parent-student-teacher conversations, as well as data-based teacher core group meetings. Students should be attending these meetings as part of their ongoing learning development.

In 2017 we trialed Mentoring with Year 10-12 students during the Option Choice process, this year we have extended the programme to cover Years 7-13. The feedback received after the 2017 sessions was overwhelmingly positive, we have refined some of our documentation, but most of the process has remained the same. As part of our ongoing review of school practices, we'd like to ask some questions about our Mentoring system. You can use this link to the school website to complete our survey: [www.catlins.school.nz/news/mentoring-survey](http://www.catlins.school.nz/news/mentoring-survey)

## Marine Metre Squared

Our junior students were accompanied by members of staff, parents and Mrs Hooker's Year 12 Biology students to Owaka Heads on 7<sup>th</sup> March to collect data for the marine metre squared survey. This is part of our ongoing Science programme supported by our Royal Society funding. Emma Longmore is heading up a team which has an interest in developing the Science curriculum across the school, whilst integrating learning from other subject areas. In completing the marine metre squared work, students have been able to classify, describe and identify plants and animals, while collecting and using data for use in oral and written presentations. The links between Science, Mathematics and English are clear. On the day, cockles were collected and brought back to school to be cooked by the Year 7 Food and Nutrition class. This provided learning opportunities for the juniors with environmental preservation and fishing quotas, alongside key competency skills of working together and sharing. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year with different scientific investigations developed by Emma and the team each term.

He waka eke noa,

Kate Staniford  
Principal



### Upcoming Events:

Gateway Week (Years 11-13) - commences Monday 19th March  
BOT Meeting - Thursday 22nd March - 6.30pm  
Otago Anniversary Day - Monday 26th March  
Y9-12 Cyber Citizenship Session with NZ Police - 27th March  
Easter Break - school closed March 30th, April 2nd, April 3rd  
GRIP Leadership Conference (Y12-13 leaders), Gore - Tuesday April 3rd

He waka eke noa,  
Kate Staniford  
Principal

**Friday hot lunches  
from the Catlins Café  
are suspended until  
further notice.**

### Hattie Kerr's Flier (The Importance of Nutrients in a Netball Players Diet) attached

Attached to this week's newsletter is a colourful brochure designed by Hattie Kerr who is in Year 8. This work was part of her Science Badge.

### Scholastic Book Club

Lucky Book Club order forms were given out today. Orders and payment to the school office before 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. Thank you.

### Agrikids

Due to the very busy first term we have been unable to hold any Agrikids get together this term. This will be rectified next term. Agrikids completion is being held in **Winton on the 21<sup>st</sup> April**. If you have any children who wish to participate in Agrikids Competition or Teen Ag please contact me [andre.annejackson@gmail.com](mailto:andre.annejackson@gmail.com). I need to get teams registered NOW! – Thanks Annie Jackson.

### Library News

**ALL** junior classes have Library time on a Thursday. Please make sure your students bring their books back on that day. We are using a sticker incentive scheme – the student with the most stickers from each class will get a new book from our book prize box at the end of the term. Thank you!

*“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”*

*Laura Bush*

## Sport News

### Southern Mounted Games

**Amelie Apte and Ruby Budge** (SOHS) placed 2nd out of six, and Kate Jackson and Lana Magiera placed 5th in the second Junior Pairs heat at the Southern Mounted Games in Roxburgh, 25 February 2018. Their Team came 7th out of nine.

We wish **Kate and Amelie** good luck when they compete for TCAS at this Sunday's Taieri District Pony Club Primary and Secondary Schools Event.”



**Fiona Wilkinson, Taylor Pennell and Tania Barr**  
Sports Department